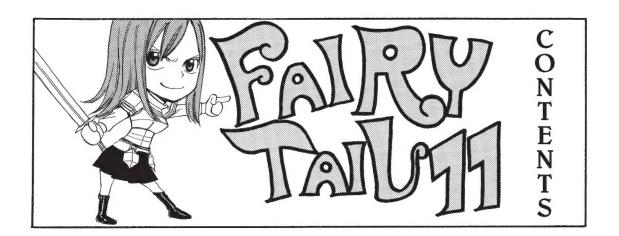




HIRO MASHIMA

11



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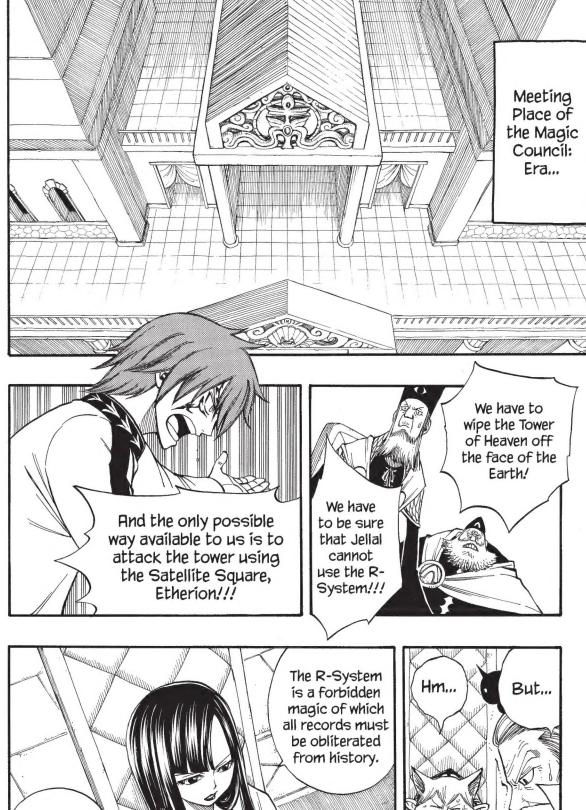
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Chapter 83: Find the Way









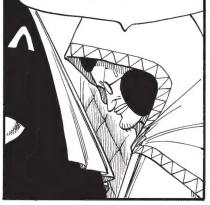




Elder Leiji!! If we make an unannounced attack on Ka-Elm national soil, history will record our names on the list of mass murderers!!!

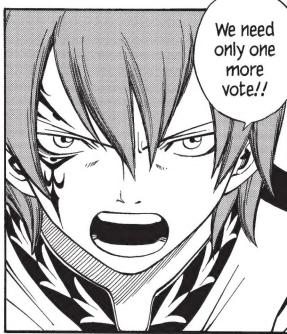


It is exactly as Sieg says. We live now only because others have previously sacrificed their lives. The history of magic proves that over and over.

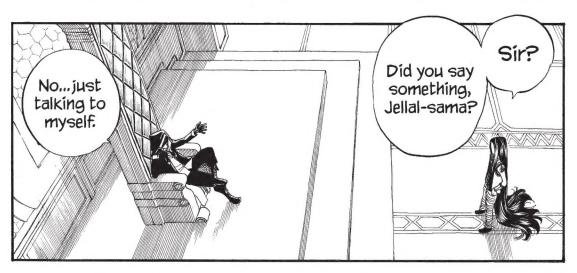


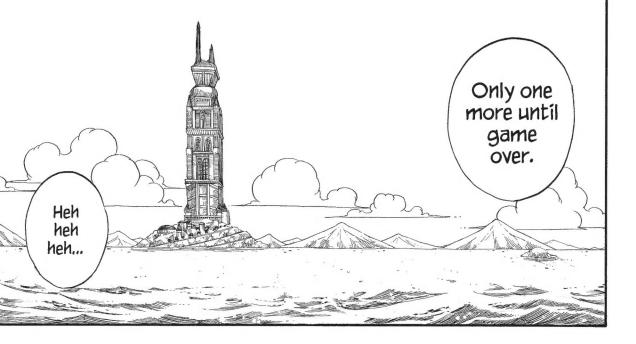


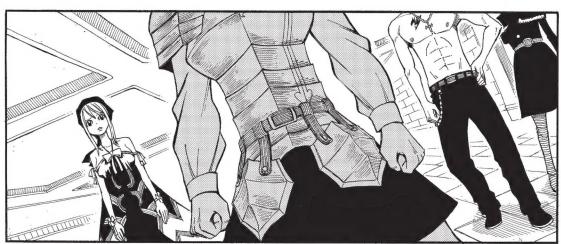




life!"



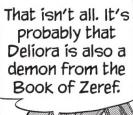






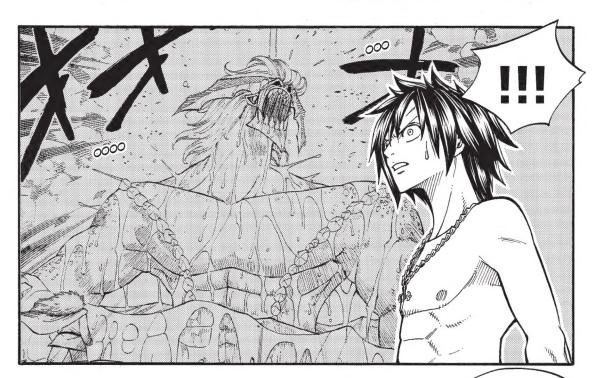




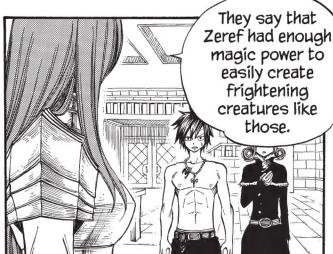
















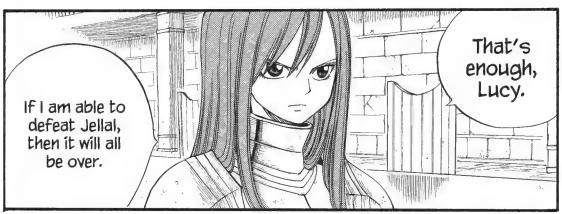




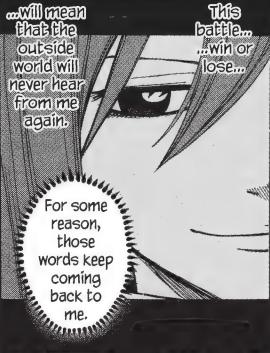








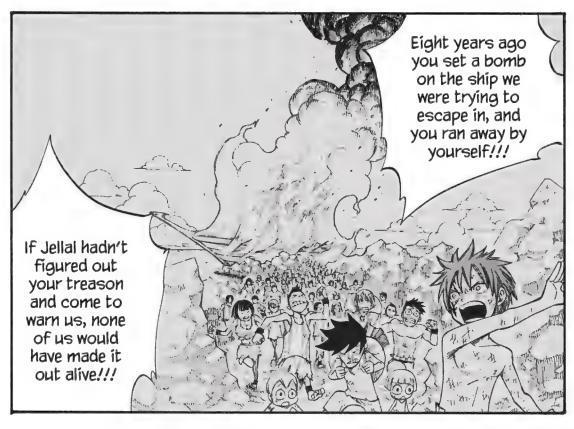


























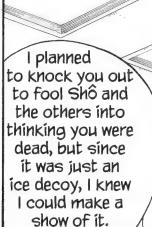














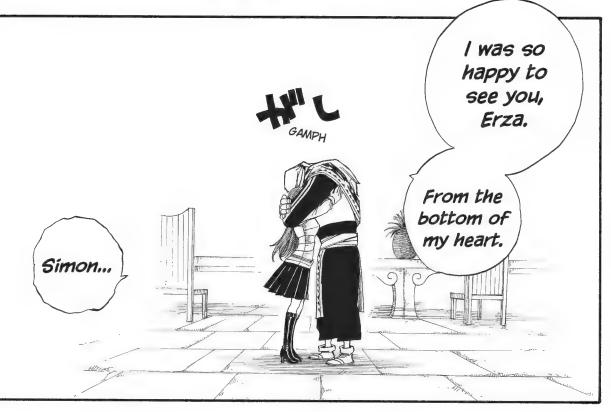
































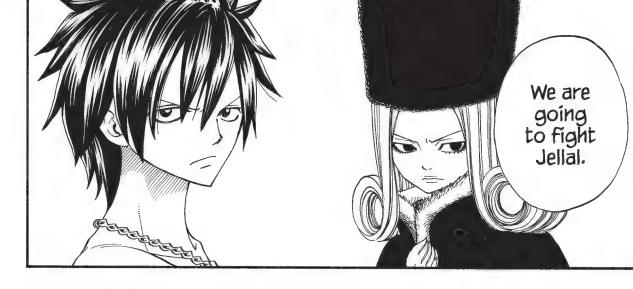


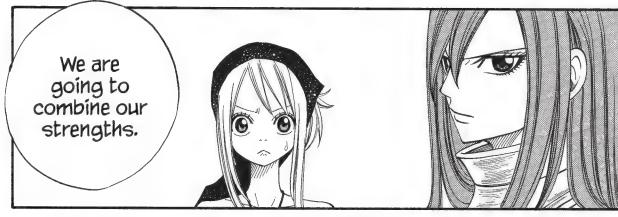


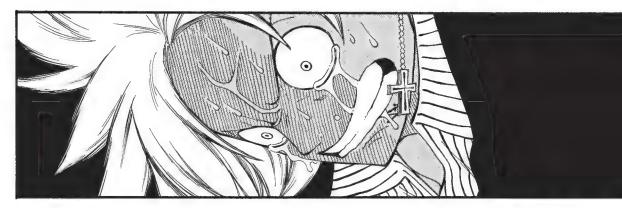






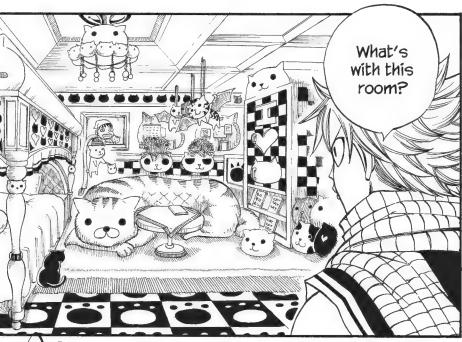
















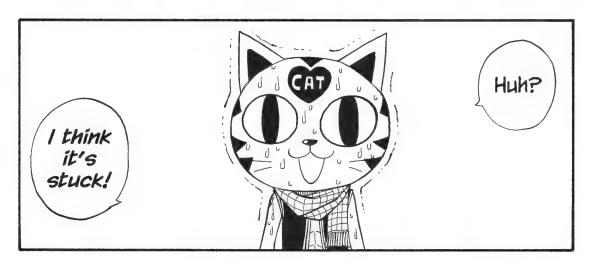


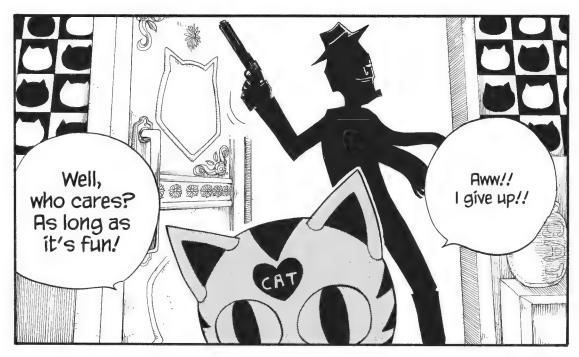






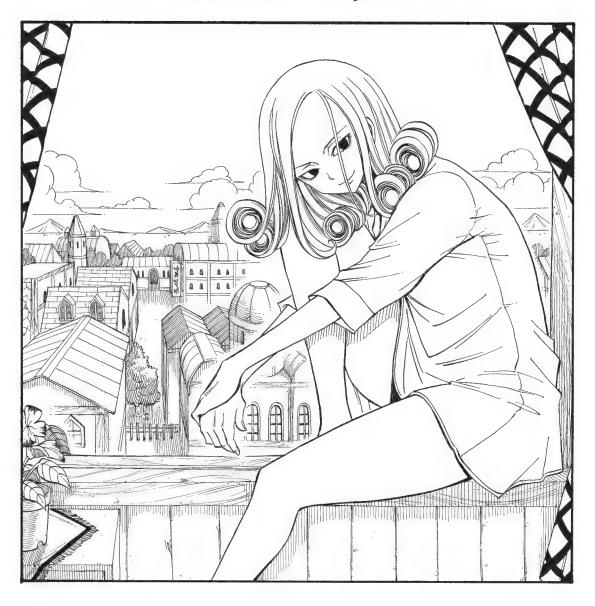








Chapter 84: Natsu-Cat Fight!!







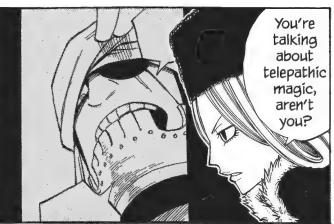








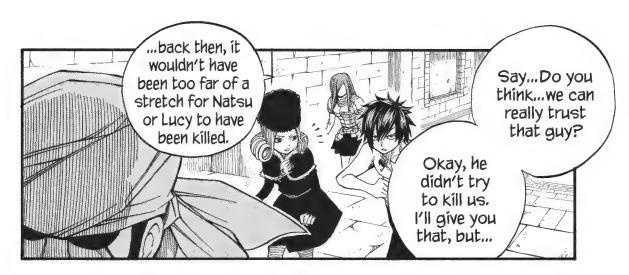




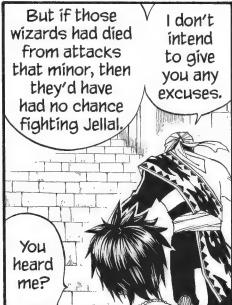


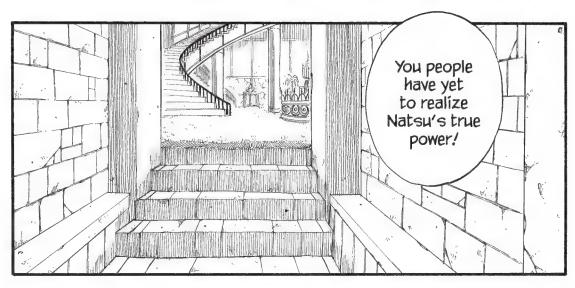




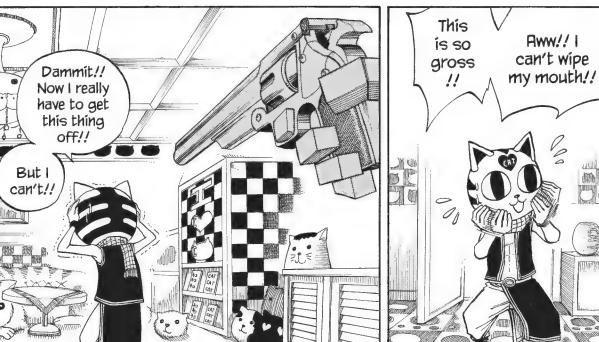






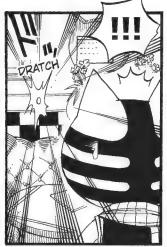


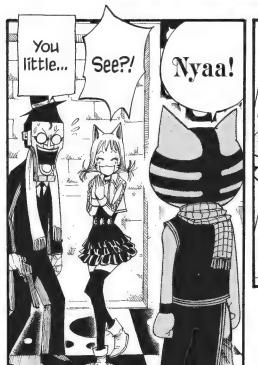
















But he

isn't a

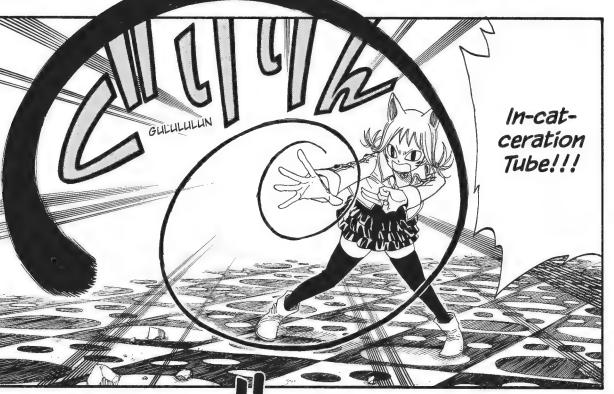
I won't let you bully a kittykitty!!



















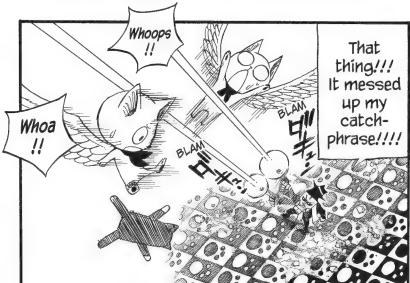










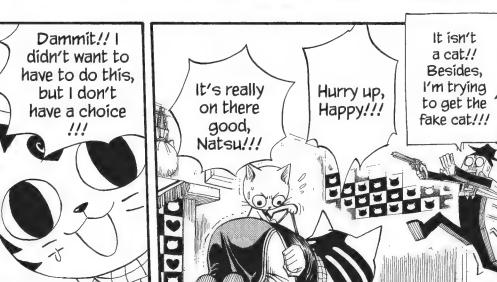






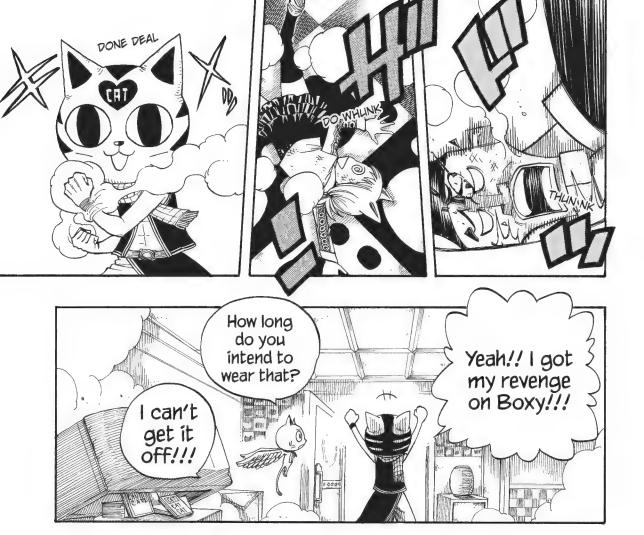
I said,

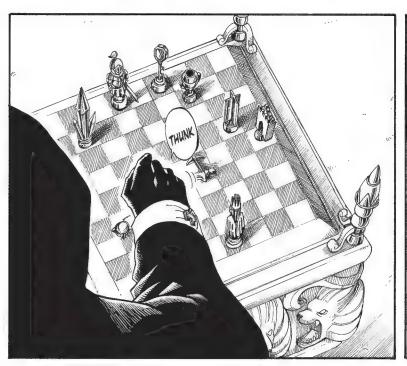
no!!!







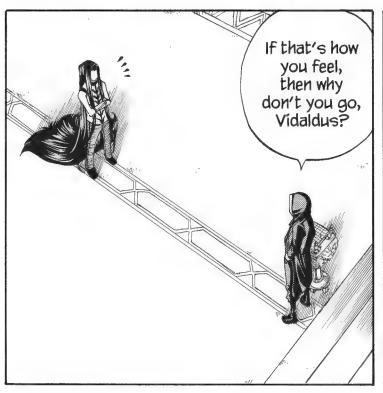






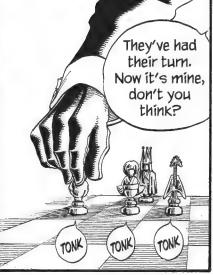














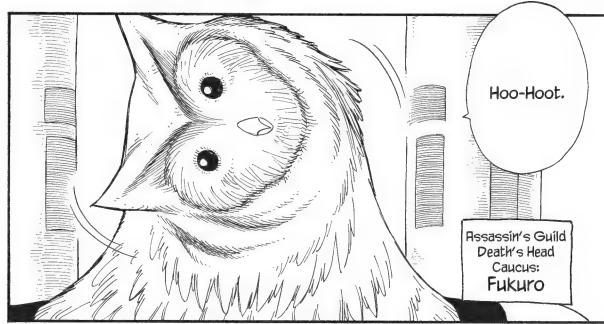














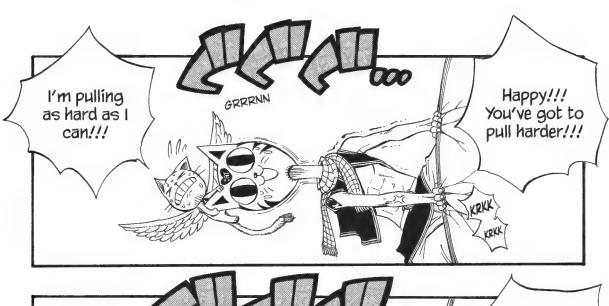
Love and life are doomed to fail.

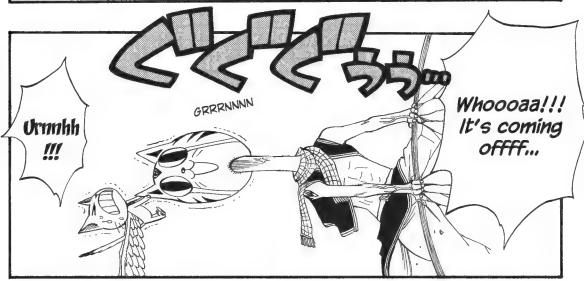
Assassin's Guild, Death's Head Caucus Special Guerilla Squad Leader:

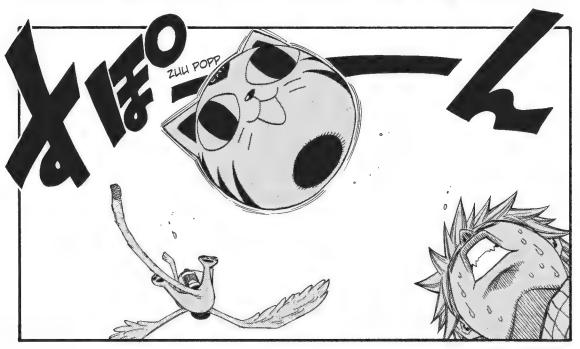
Ikaruga



Chapter 85: Heaven's Game





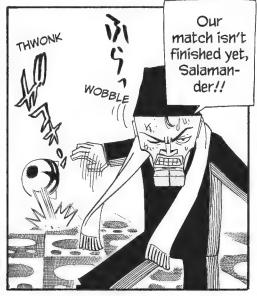




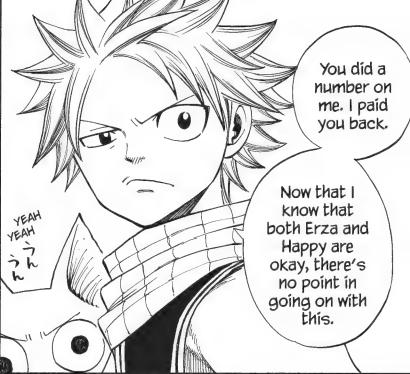












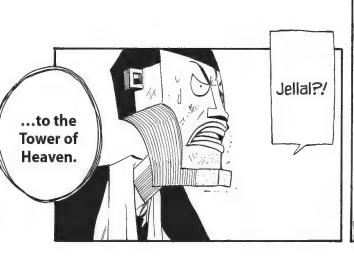


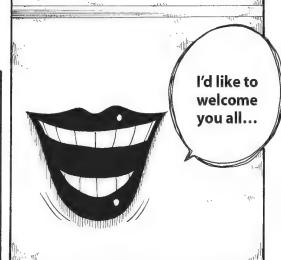














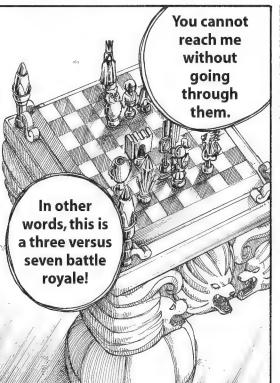






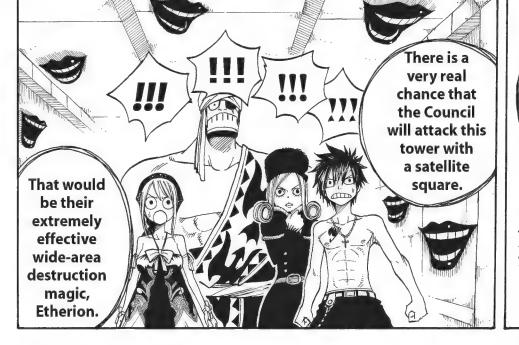












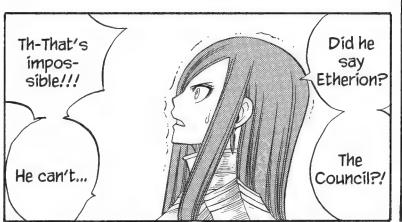




































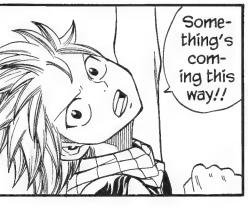


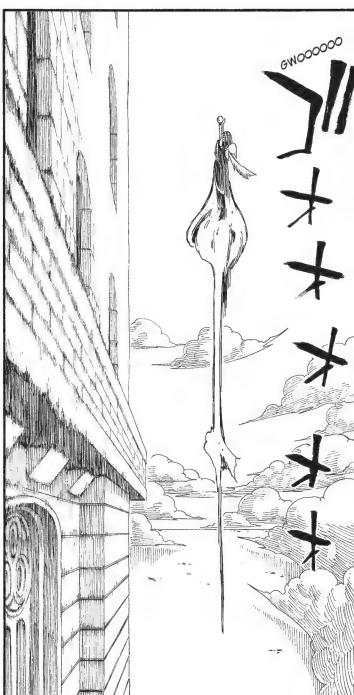






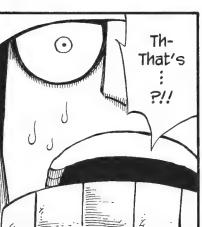














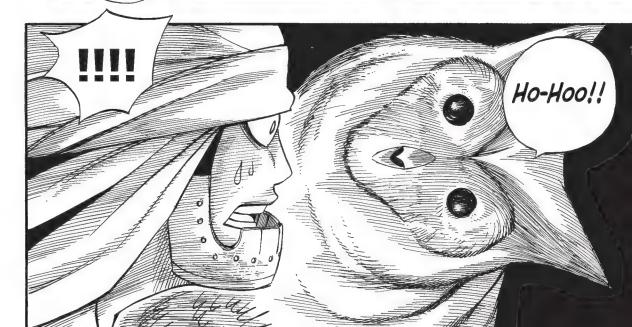






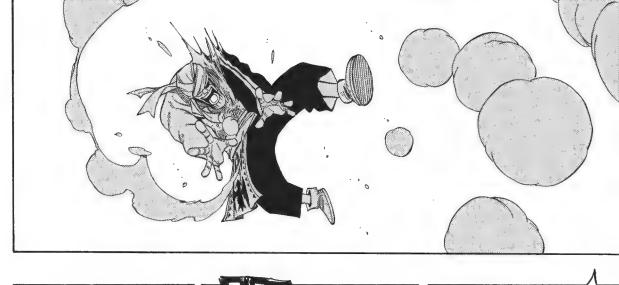








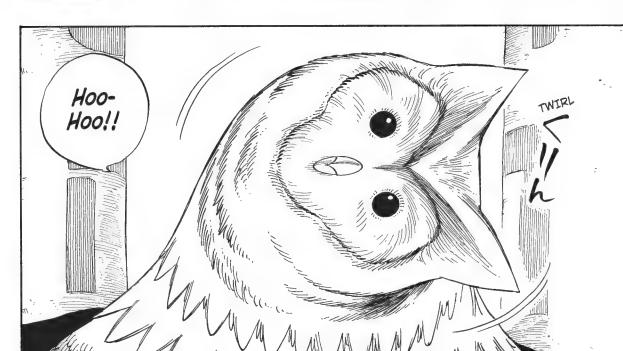


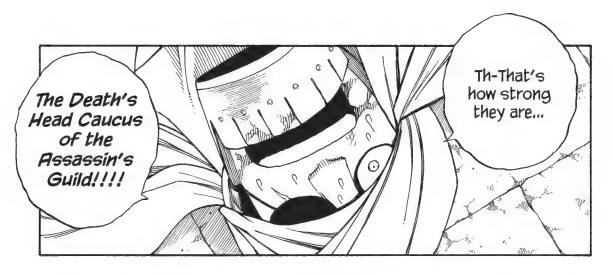




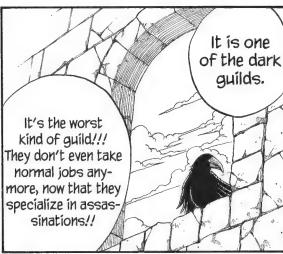


























Chapter 86: Rock of Succubus

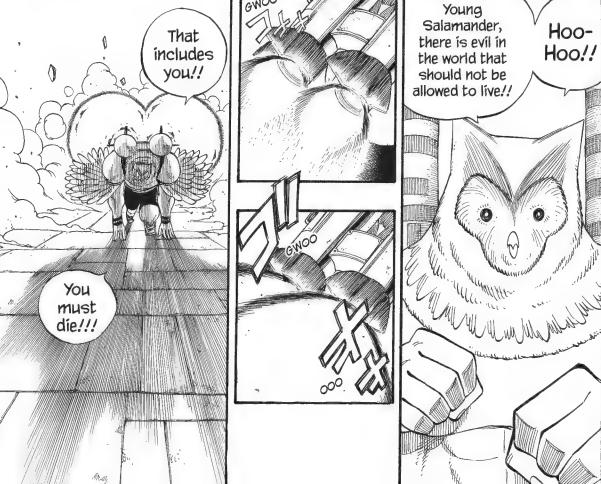








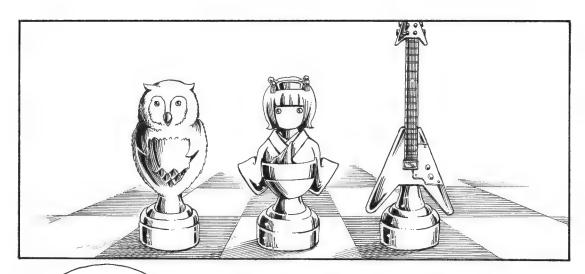




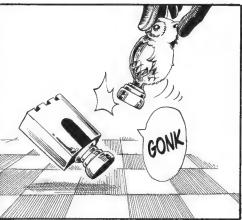




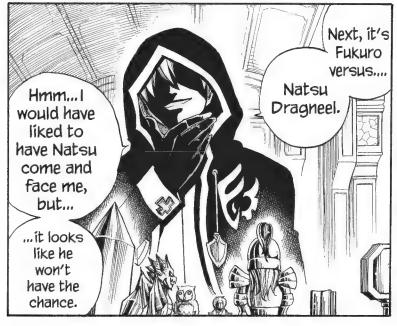


















































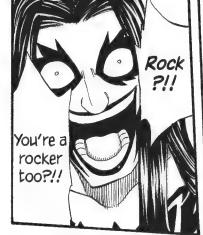










































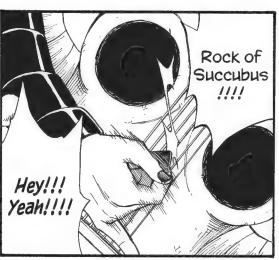












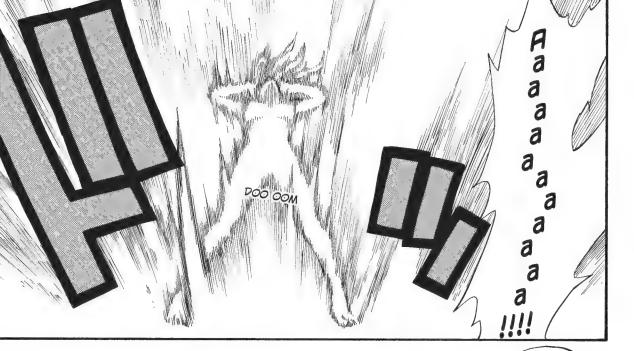


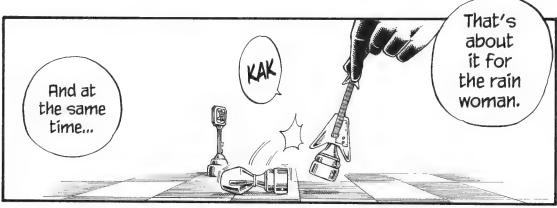
















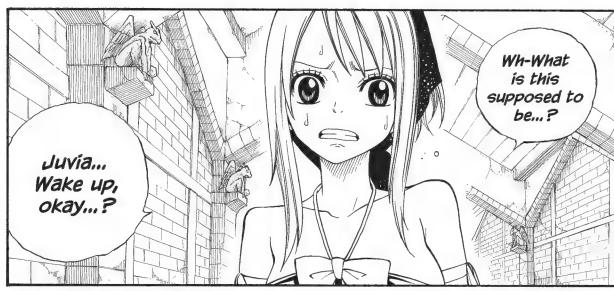






Chapter 87: Lucy vs. Juvia



















































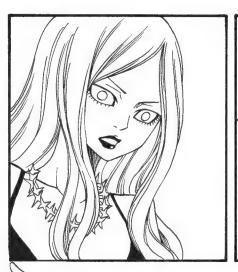
















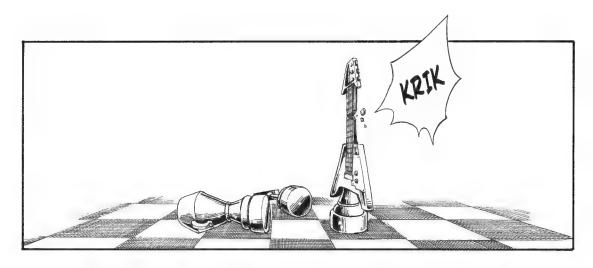














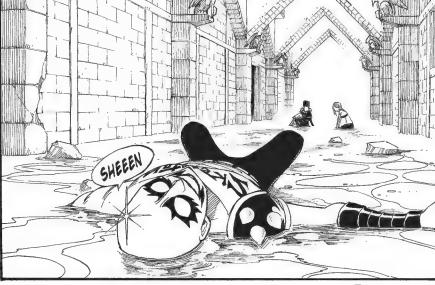


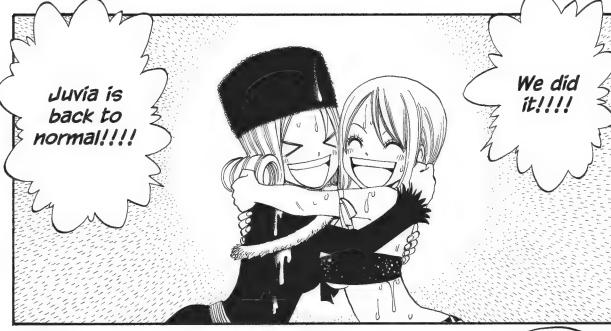


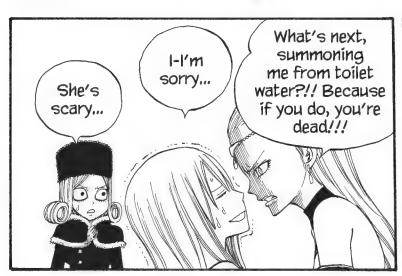










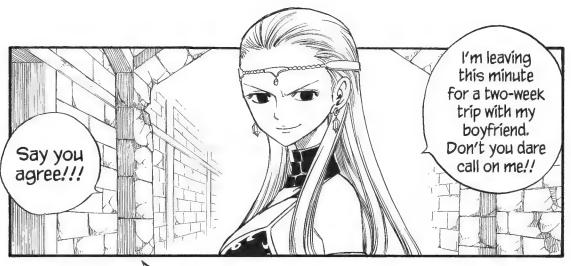






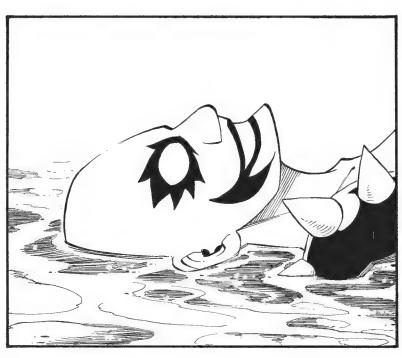
Chapter 88: Natsu Becomes a Meal

















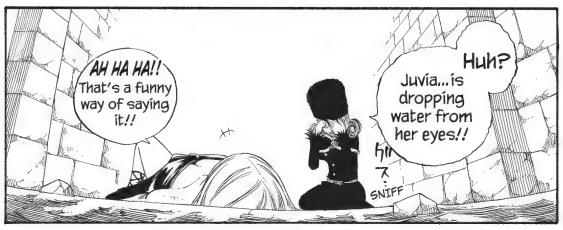


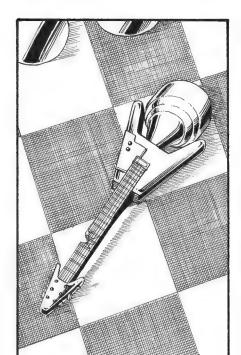












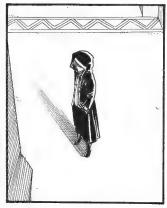




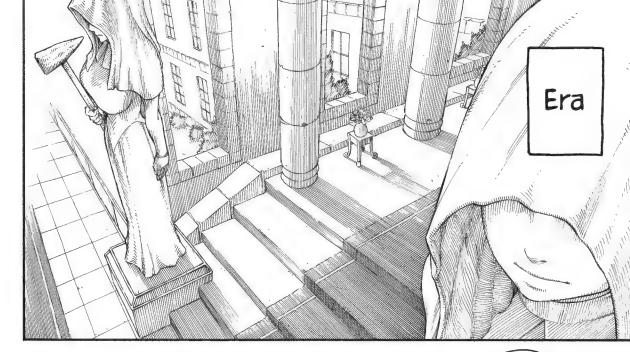






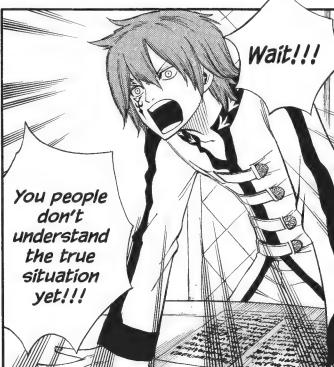






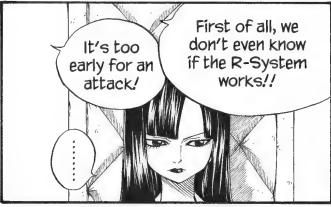










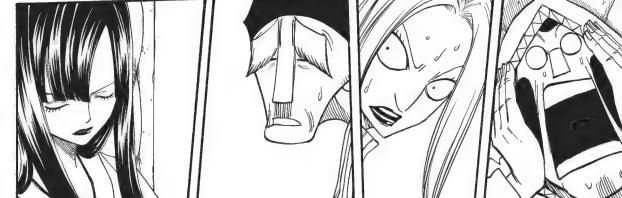


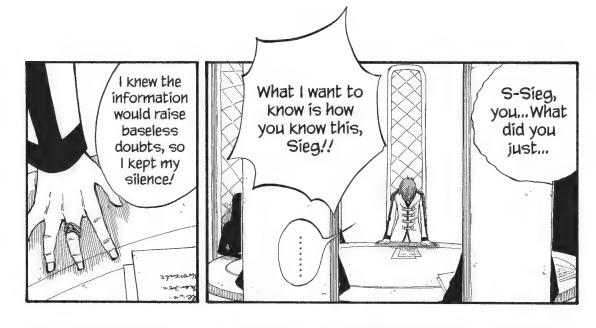




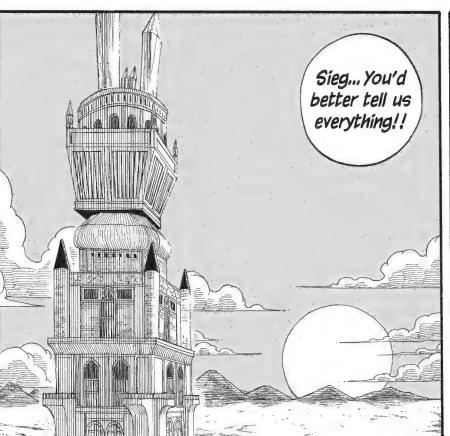










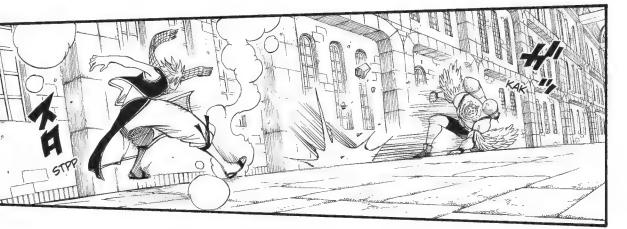


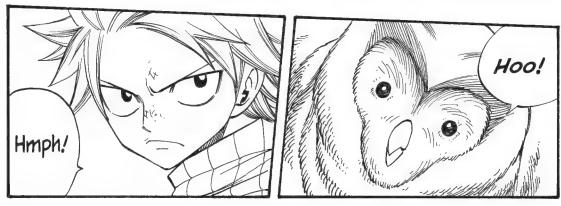






\*Fire Dragon's Talon!

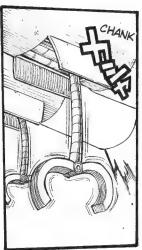








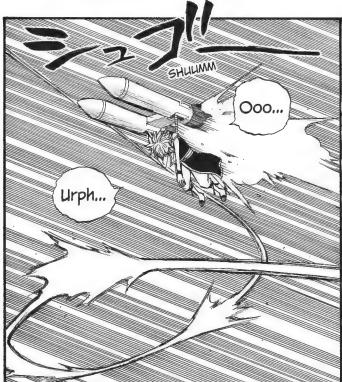




























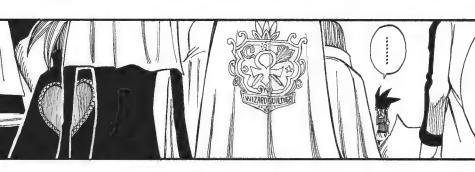






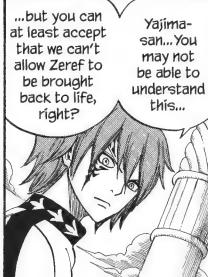






...the motion to use Etherion against the Tower of Heaven is passed!

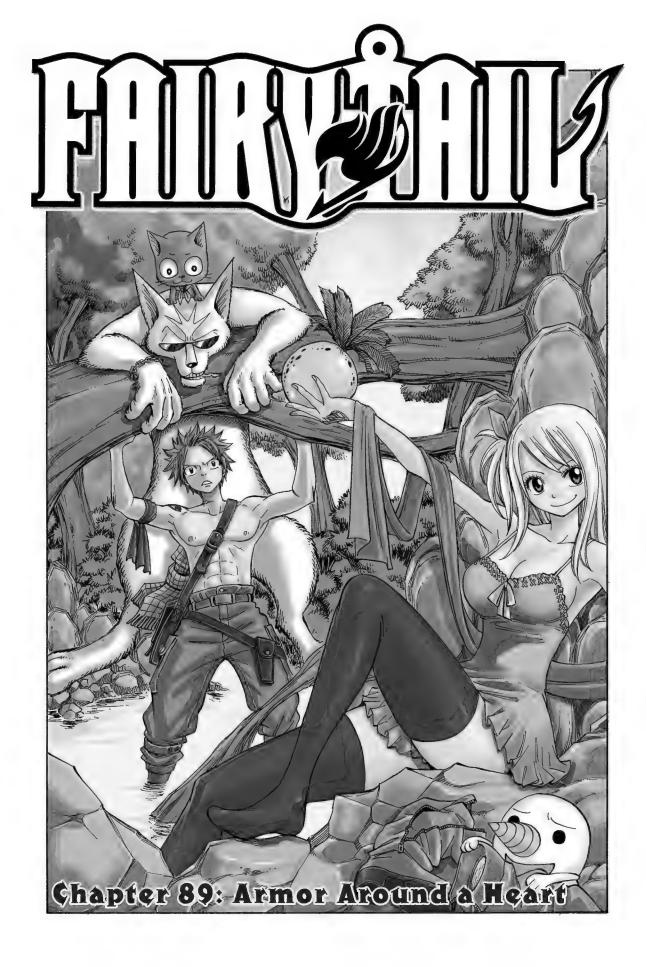
















What's "best" about it?!! Since this morning, I've fallen in a drainage ditch, lost my wallet...
Nothing but bad things have happened to me today!!!



No matter how many times I do it, the outcome is always the same!! Your fortune is the best! Shut up and be happy!!

Do it again!!!
Why is my fortune supposed to be the best today?!!











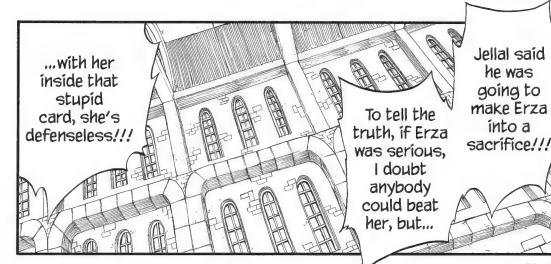






































Maybe not. But you'd do better to put on some clothes! Is this supposed to be a pervert's guild?!







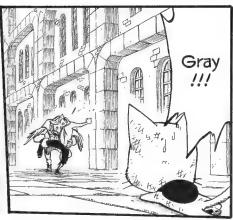




















Erza-sama!!
The one
fated to
carry Fairy
Tail on her
shoulders!!!

But I never thought that Erza could work "the great Gray" over like that!! Impressive!!



Shut up!!! You don't quit!! Are you in love with her or something?

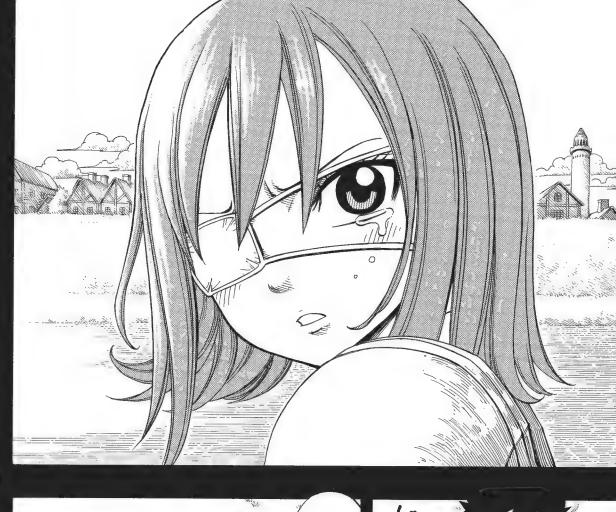
Did Erza get the best of you again, Gray?

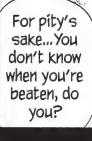




















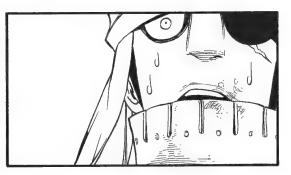


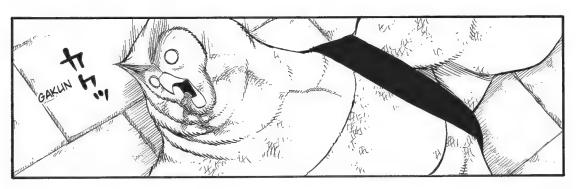




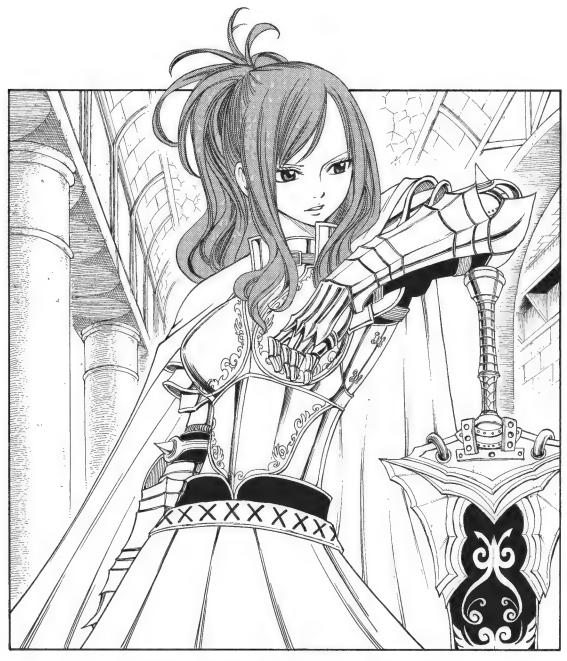






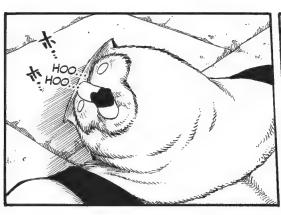


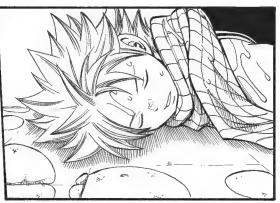




Chapter 90: Ikaruga











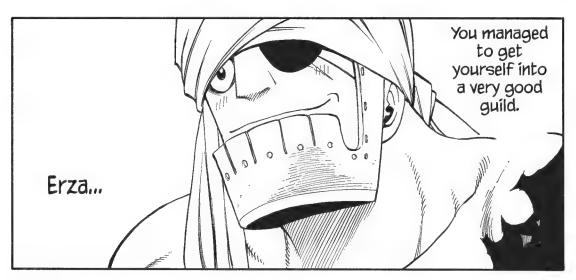






















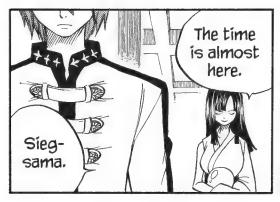


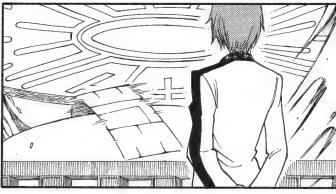


























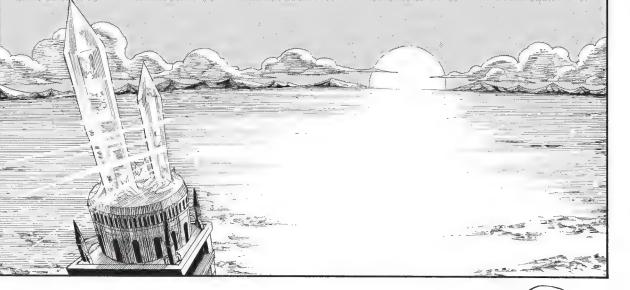
However, it's well worth betting my life on.

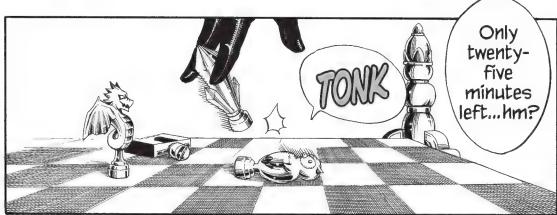




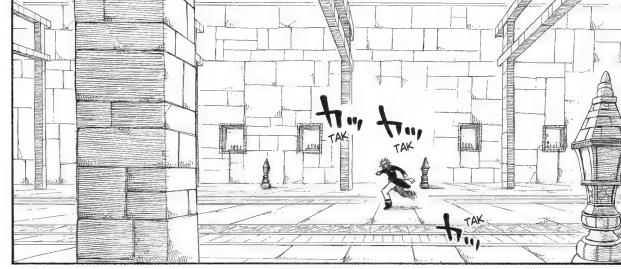














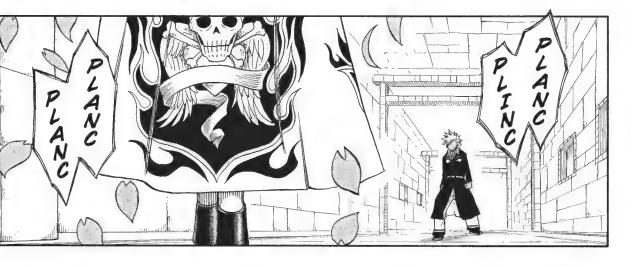






























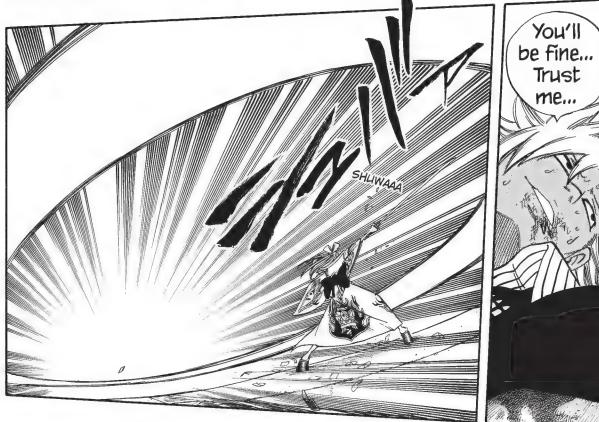








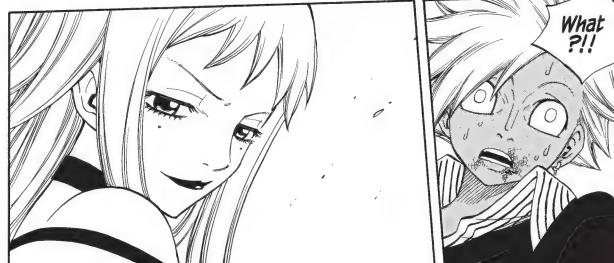


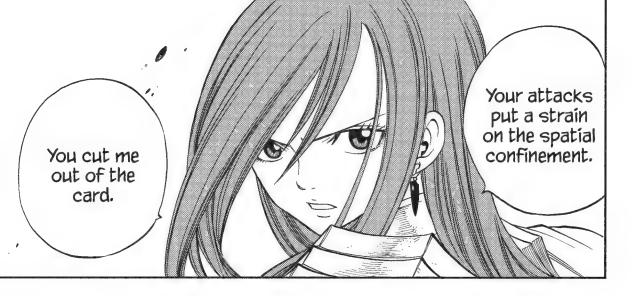


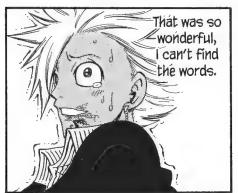


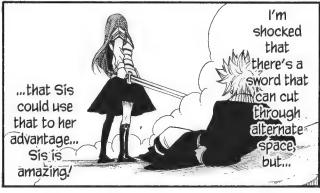














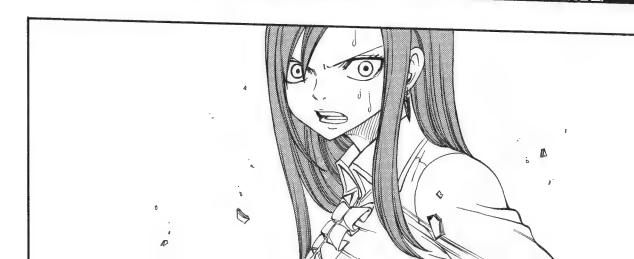








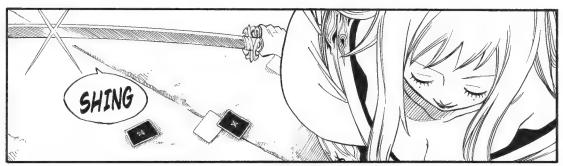


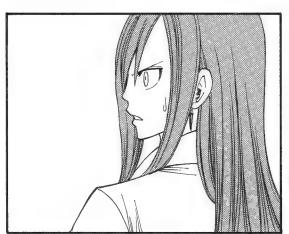




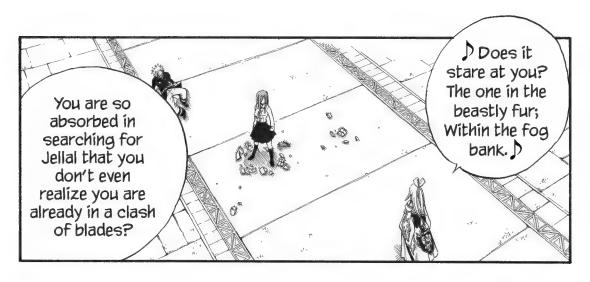
Chapter 91: One Woman! The Decisive Outfit

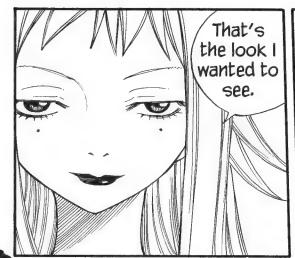


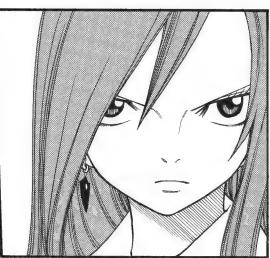
























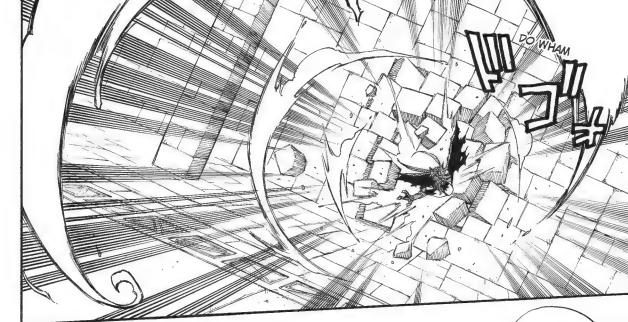














compliment you on your speed donning it. Do I detect armor with protection against fire?



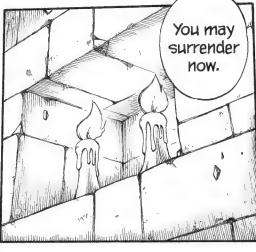
















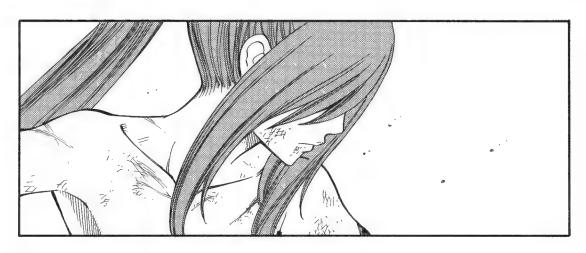














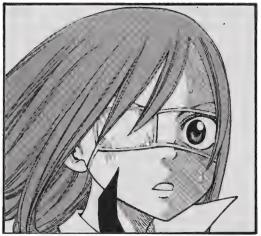






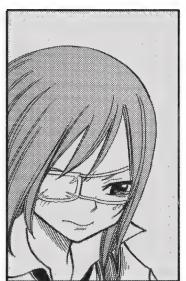














l'm always crying.

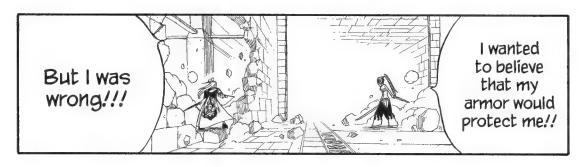


I shut my own heart within armor...









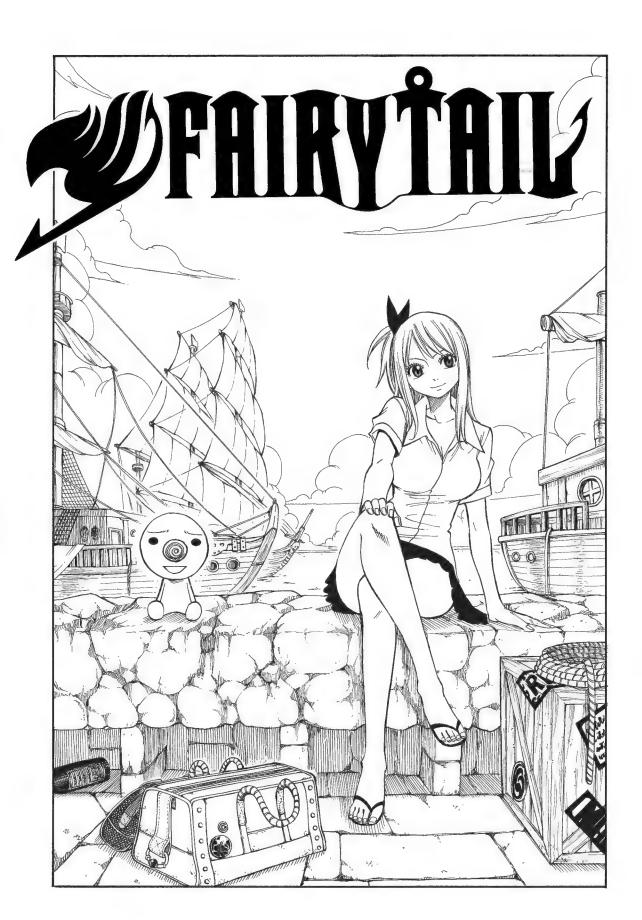












# send in your black-and-white art on large postcard stock!! Those chosen to be published will get a signed mini poster! Make sure you write your real name and address on the back of your postcard!

Okinawa Prefecture, Akemi Teruya



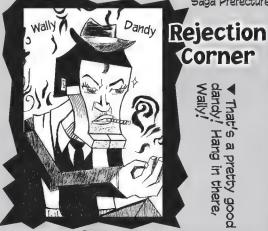
This is pretty messed up, huh? There are people kicking things out there! (laughs)



Saga Prefecture, Shûichiro Iwasaki



Aichi Prefecture, Takuya Takigawa



Hyogo Prefecture, Misaki

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author. When

you send

mail, please keep that in

mind.

Any



Aichi Prefecture, Anzu



Kagoshima Prefecture, Mugen

You know, I think this is cuter and more erotic than the way I draw it.¹





Fukuoka Prefecture, Keel



Iwate Prefecture, Yurie Abe



MON Y

Kittymander

Hiroshima Prefecture, Momiji



Nagasaki Prefecture, Yû

Ø

e face Cancer

Mira-chan! d much of a



Hyogo Prefecture, Mitsunari Kawabata



Gunma Prefecture, Umi



The Fairy Tail Guild d'Art is an explosion of fan art! Please

Kanagawa Prefecture, Kirin



Saitama Prefecture, Haruka



Kanagawa Prefecture, M.I.

girlish picture doesn't happe

how is it

going

That is to Tomeko! <u></u> 70



### Emergency Request Explain the Mysteries of...

## FAIRYTAIL



#### From the Counter at Fairy Tail...



: Hi everybody! Long time, no see!!



: We were only absent from one volume.

Lucy: Honestly! When this corner was left out of the last volume, I was shocked! I thought it was all over for us!!

Mira: It can't end like that! There's still so much for readers to complain about in this manga!

Lucy: I don't know whether to be happy or sad about that! (sweat, sweat)

Mira: Let's get to the first question.

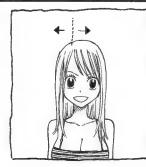
I think Lucy's hairstyle is cute, and I'd like to do the same with my hair. How do I do it?



: Well! \ What a wonderful question!

Mira: It's from a grade-school-aged girl

Lucy: Okay, let me teach you a simple way of doing it.



First, I part my hair somewhere about one quarter of the way across the bangs. But you can do it wherever you like, really.

You want to take up some of your hair from a line above the nape of the neck, and be sure to leave some behind. You want to gather it and tie it on the top-right side of your head. Don't worry about it too much. Just do whatever you can with it.



Tie it off with a hair band and decorate it with a ribbon. Then take a comb and tease the gathered hair until it shifts around easily. Again, there's no need to obsess. Just do what you can.



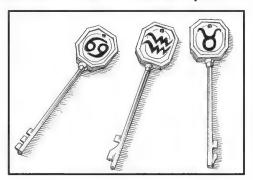
If you put a little hairspray on it, it'll look a little better. And you're done!!

Continued on the right-hand page



Mira: Let's continue with the next question.

Could you let me know the order from strongest to weakest of Lucy's Twelve Golden Gate Celestial Spirits?



Lucy: Ehh? That's a hard question! Celestial spirits have all sorts of different strengths and weaknesses. Hm...

Mira: Okay, after reading all the volumes so far, I'll give you my impressions.

- #1. Plue (Seems to be unrivaled)
- #2. Aquarius (Strong!)
- #3. Loke (Sort of strong)
- #4. The cow and the crab, and the others.



: That's awful!!! Plue's not even a celestial spirit of the Twelve Golden Gates!!



: Huh? I thought my assessment was pretty accurate.

Lucy: Not only that, but actually Taurus (Bull) and Cancer (Crab) are both pretty strong!

Mira: What about the maid and the horse guy?



: They're really strong too!! Anyway, I can't decide an order!! Mira: Then we'll just go on to the final question.

Why did Wally turn into that boxy guy?





Lucy: Hmm...

Mira: I wonder...

Lucy: Maybe he was pursuing being the perfect dandy, and he just turned out that way.

Mira: I've known it to happen.

Lucy: Or maybe he was going down a boxy-like passageway and by the

end, he was boxy too.

Mira: Happens all the time.

Lucy: Or maybe one day, a goddess appeared before his eyes. And she ordered him to be boxy from that moment on.

Mira: Nope. That would never happen.



: What's with the sudden rejection?



: I think it was love.

Lucy: L-Love?



: Isn't that how the old saying goes? "Love makes you boxy"?



: Nobody has ever said that!!!



Trinity Raven! I came up with them at the last moment. Originally the ones who were going to stand between our heroes and Jellal were Shô, Simon, and the others. But while I was writing the chapters of Erza's past (the chapters toward the end of the last volume), I started feeling really sorry for them. Even if Natsu and Gray were to defeat them, it wouldn't really solve their conflicts. And so, all very quickly, I set up the Trinity Raven. The scene of the fight between Natsu and Wally and Millianna was done in a very comical way, so it didn't draw the same kind of sympathy that my original idea had.

People who read these Afterword sections might have come to notice already, but tales like this change an awful lot. It happens all the time that a story I've completely thought through will take an unexpected turn. In this particular story arc, there have been a number of changes. The Trinity Raven is just a typical example. And my style is to not think too much about what comes after, so every week I find myself saying, *I wonder what will come next?* (Or, *what'll I do now?!!*) That's the way I am, but here, I actually have given the way this story arc ends a lot of thought. Well, I gave it a bit of vague thought on all the other stories. (sweat, sweat) For the end of the Deliora story arc, I thought, *Gray'll end up winning...right?* For the Phantom arc, *Makarov will prove to be really strong...right?* I sort of muddle through to the end.

But not this time!! I've given the end of this story arc some concrete thought!!! And it looks like it will turn out to be a really good story... At least I hope it turns out good...So expect great things!!



#### **About the Creator**

**HIRO MASHIMA** was born May 3, 1977, in Nagano Prefecture. His series *Rave Master* has made him one of the most popular manga artists in America. *Fairy Tail*, currently being serialized in *Weekly Shônen Magazine*, is his latest creation.



My name is Tama
Gonzaburo!!
I'm going to slide right
down your throat!!
And just think how tasty
your beef bowl would be
with me on top!!
Can you even imagine
breakfast without me?!
Wow-wow!! I'm a
reproductive cell!!...
Sorry.
I'm really tired.

—Hiro Mashima

#### **Translation Notes**

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

#### General Notes: Wizard

In the original Japanese version of *Fairy Tail*, you'll find panels in which the English word "wizard" is part of the original illustration. So this translation has taken that as its inspiration and translated the word *madôshi* as "wizard." But *madôshi*'s meaning is similar to certain Japanese words that have been borrowed by the English language, such as judo (the soft way) and kendo (the way of the sword). *Madô* is the way of magic, and *madôshi* are those who follow the way of magic. So although the word "wizard" is used in the original dialogue, a Japanese reader would be likely to think not of traditional Western wizards, such as Merlin or Gandalf, but of martial artists.

#### Names

Hiro Mashima has graciously agreed to provide official English spellings for just about all of the characters in *Fairy Tail*. Because this version of *Fairy Tail* is the first publication of most of these spellings, there will inevitably be differences between these spellings and some of the fan interpretations that may have spread throughout the Web or in other fan circles. Rest assured that the spellings contained in this book are the spellings that Mashima-sensei wanted for *Fairy Tail*.

#### Tama Gonzaburo, page 191

The Japanese word for "egg" is tamago. So Tama Gonzaburo is something of a pun on the word "egg."

### Sneezing when someone is gossiping about you, page 27

There is an old saying that when you sneeze, someone is talking about you. This has turned into a shorthand version of a standard joke in Japanese TV dramas, anime, manga, and other media. A group of people are talking about a character, then there is a sudden scene change to that character who sneezes and wonders if he is coming down with a cold. In reality, very few people believe this is true, but the joke still "plays" nonetheless.



#### In-cat-ceration Tube, page 31

The Japanese word for "incarceration" or "restraint" is *kôsoku*, and the Japanese word

for "cat" is *neko*. Millianna's attack in Japanese was, *Ne-kôsoku* Tube (with "tube" being in English). Since there was no way to translate the pun on the manga page, I replaced it with an English pun and elected to explain it here in the notes.

#### The names of the Trinity Raven, page 42



All of the names of the members of Trinity Raven are Japanese words for birds. As you, the reader, have probably already guessed, *fukuro* is the Japanese word for "owl." Slightly less obvious are *taka*, which means "hawk," and *ikaruga*, which is the word used when referring to a bird known as the Japanese grosbeak. (That's why Ikaruga calls herself "Ikaruga the Dove" later on. We just thought "dove" sounded more elegant than "grosbeak."

#### Vidaldus-han, page 50

Japanese grosbeak speaks in the Kyoto version of the *Kansai-ben* dialect (accent for the *Kansai* region that mainly consists of Kobe, Osaka, Kyoto, and Nara but also includes the surrounding areas). In many versions of the *Kansai* accent of Japanese, the honorific *-san* is pronounced *-han*.

#### Faakin' Gals, page 72

Okay, I chickened out a little and transliterated (put the Japanese pronunciation intact in the alphabet) rather than translated Vidaldus's line. But there are reasons for it. The F-bomb has a certain amount of emotional content in English that it doesn't have in Japanese. In Japanese, it's just something that heavy-metal rockers or tough guys in movies say. While at the same time, the Japanese "swear words" being used in Fairy Tail are all rather tame—they might be said on TV without anyone batting an eye. Any Japanese equivalent to the F-bomb would be out of place in the Japanese version, and the actual F-bomb would be out of place in the American version.

#### Lock and rock, page 76

As any first-year Japanese language course will tell you, the Japanese people (who don't have training in the English language) cannot hear the difference between the *l* and *r* sounds. For example, the words "correction" and "collection" sound exactly the same to a Japanese native speaker. (The same kind of thing goes both ways. Native English speakers, at first, have a tough time distinguishing between the short and long vowels of Japanese words. "Mr. Oka," *Oka-san*, sounds very much like the Japanese word for "mother,"



okaa-san.) To a native Japanese speaker, "lock" and "rock" sound exactly the same and are spelled the same in Japanese.

#### Shampooing every morning, page 78

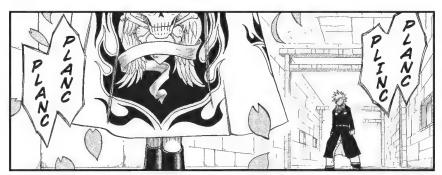
There is some research to back up Vidaldus's claim. Reportedly, daily washing strips the scalp of a beneficial oil called sebum, and can damage hair. Apparently the scalp tries to compensate for the washed-off oil by producing more oil, but breaking the daily shampooing habit will, within a little while, cause the scalp to return to its normal oil production, and one's hair will not be as greasy as it will seem when one first breaks the habit. At least one dermatologist recommends shampooing only twice or three times a week.

#### Water Cane, page 88

If you're wondering why a stick that helps people walk is thought of as a weapon, remember that in parts of Asia, caning is a still form of criminal punishment. It is used much like a whip, meant to flay skin off the caning victim's back. Often in Japanese period dramas, the villains will capture a hero or innocent bystander and cane him or her to try to get information.

#### Drainage Ditch, page 125

By the side of nearly every road in Japan is a drainage ditch to drain rain water from the road. The ditches are usually covered by small blocks of concrete, but in many rural and some urban settings, the ditches remain uncovered and present something of a hazard to pedestrians since many (if not most) of Japanese streets lack sidewalks.



#### Planc and plinc, page 155

This is supposed to be the sound of a shamisen playing traditional music in the background. But since the shamisen isn't a common instrument in the West, the sound effect doesn't come across as well as it does to Japanese readers.

#### Does it stare at you?...Within the fog bank, page 167

This verse is in the form of a haiku, the form of Japanese poetry that is best known to the Western world. It is descended from the older Japanese poem form, waka. But haiku is a form that is more bound by rules (it must be a natural setting; it must have some word indicating the season; etc.), and it is a shorter form of poem at seventeen syllables (5-7-5) to waka's thirty-one (5-7-5-7-7). Although one can generally say more using seventeen syllables of English than one can in seventeen syllables of Japanese, language translation generally takes more words to get the point across—so with some imagination, one can translate haiku into the same number of syllables.

#### **Honorifics Explained**

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

**-sama**: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

**-dono:** This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

**-kun:** This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a

lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is

also used for little boys, pets, and even between lovers. It gives

a sense of childish cuteness.

**Bozu:** This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English

terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/

**Senpai**: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school

group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority

in the company.

**Kohai:** This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward under

classmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It con-

notes that the addressee is of a lower station.

**Sensei**: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used

for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

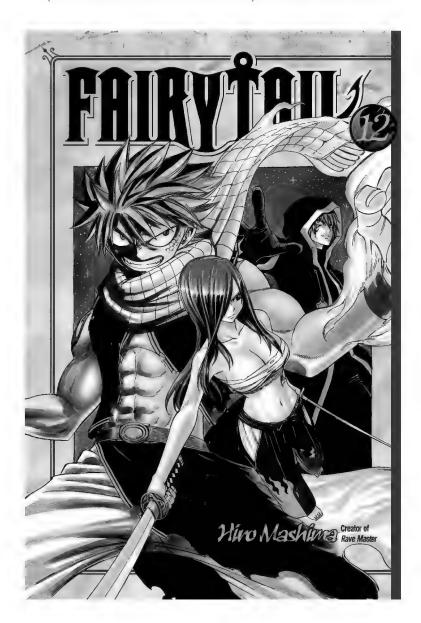
-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the

most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy

hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

#### **Preview of Volume 12**

We're pleased to present you with a preview from volume 12, now available from Kodansha Comics. Check out our Web site (www.kodanshacomics.com) for more details!



















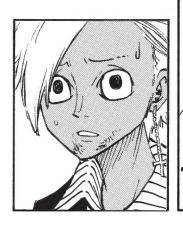






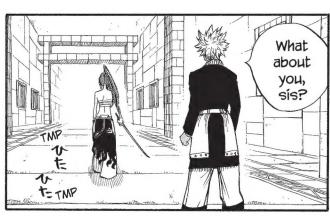
















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Published in the United States by Kodansha Comics, an imprint of Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC., New York.

Publication rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

First published in Japan in 2008 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo

ISBN 978-1-612-62282-8

Printed in the United States of America

www.kodanshacomics.com

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Manga is a completely different type of reading experience.

To start at the *beginning*, go to the *end*!

That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the *opposite* of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: Just go to the other end of the book and read each page—and each panel—from right side to left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be!